

HOUSE RESOLUTION 190
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor Rhonda Martocci upon the occasion of her induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2006 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Rhonda Martocci, who has served the Walking Horse industry with distinction in numerous capacities over the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Martocci modestly attributes this august honor to her daughter Victoria, whose interest in and love for horses was the driving force behind the Martocci family purchasing their first Tennessee Walking Horse 25 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Rhonda Martocci has reached the pinnacle of the industry by winning the Amateur Yearling World Championship with Olympic Titan; and

WHEREAS, a lady of diverse talents, Rhonda Martocci has been and continues to be an invaluable asset to the Walking Horse industry in many different roles, including meritorious service on the Celebration Advisory Board, the Boards of WHOA and TWHBEA, the TWHBEA Executive Committee, and the NHSC Legislative Committee; and

WHEREAS, a member of the NHSC Board, or an alternate, since 1997, Rhonda Martocci has rendered astute service as the four-time President of WHOA and as Chair of the National Horse Show Commission in 2000; and

WHEREAS, her many significant contributions to the Walking Horse industry have been recognized through her receipt of the Friend of the Trainers award and the *Year in Walking Horses* dedication; and

WHEREAS, realizing that good citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Rhonda Martocci is actively involved in and generously supports several civic and charitable organizations, including the YMCA Heritage Foundation, the Nashville Symphony, and Habitat for Humanity, which has honored her with inclusion in the President's Circle; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Johnny Bryant Bradberry and Elizabeth Ann Welch, Rhonda Ann Martocci is a native of Martin, Tennessee, but she grew up in Union City and graduated from Obion County High School in Troy; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments in the Walking Horse industry aside, Rhonda Martocci is fortunate to share love and companionship with her family, which, in addition to her mother, includes her husband, William Stanley Blaylock, and her children, Victoria Ann Martocci, Bryant Joseph Martocci, Bethany Ann Martocci, and Hannah Elizabeth Blaylock; and

WHEREAS, by means of her induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Rhonda Martocci has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay

homage to her life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion;
now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby
acknowledge and applaud Rhonda Martocci on the occasion of her induction into the
Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame and commend her for her sterling
service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.